

REMARKS

Claims 5-13 are pending in this application, with Claim 5 being the sole independent claim.

Subsequent to the mailing of the April 8, 2004 Office Action, Applicant filed an Information Disclosure Statement on May 4, 2004. Consideration of the art cited therein is requested.

Claims 5-9, 12, and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,327,600 (Satoh et al.) considered in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,343,283 (Saito et al.). Claims 10 and 11 stand rejected under Section 103 as being obvious over the combination of Satoh et al. and Saito in further combination with U.S. Patent No. 5,671,277 (Ikenoue et al.). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections for the following reasons.

As recited in independent Claim 5, the present invention includes, *inter alia*, the feature transmitting a registration fee request to a device that issued a copyright registration request. Applicant submits that the cited art fails to disclose or suggest at least this feature.

As correctly stated at page 3 of the Office Action, Satoh et al. does not disclose or suggest at least the above-mentioned feature. The Office Action asserts that Saito et al. discloses that feature. Applicant respectfully disagrees. The Office Action cites to Col. 11, lines 51-53 as allegedly disclosing this feature. That portion of Saito et al. merely discloses that a key control center sends back to a requester a third crypt key [K3], and charges and collects a fee according to copyright labels Lc1 and Lc2. However, that patent does not disclose or suggest registration of a digital work and therefore does not disclose or suggest

transmitting a registration fee request. Instead, Saito et al. is merely considered with using a copyright work, i.e., a secondary user who desires to utilize copyrighted data sends a request to the key control center, and when the third crypt key is received a copyright label is attached to data so that the secondary user can utilize it. *See* col. 11, lines 28-31 and 38-41. Saito et al. also discloses that the copyright owner can change an access path, edit copyrighted data, or register it using another key. Col. 11, line 53 - col. 12, line 4. However, Applicant submits there is no disclosure that the copyright owner would need to pay a registration fee or transmit a registration fee request.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that Saito et al. discloses only control of using copyrighted data, not registration of data, and does not disclose or suggest at least the feature of transmitting a registration fee request to a device that issued a copyright registration request. Therefore, Applicant submit that Saito et al. adds nothing to the disclosure of Satoh et al. that would render obvious the present invention.

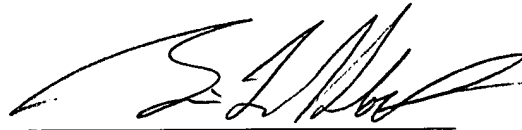
The other cited art also fails to remedy the above-noted deficiencies of Satoh et al.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that Claim 5 is patentable over the cited art, whether it is considered individually or in combination. The dependent claims are patentable for at least the same reasons as the independent claim, as well as for the additional features they recite.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. L. Klock', written over a horizontal line.

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